

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 02532 121344Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10

EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /123 W

-----121308 130121Z /65

R 121035Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5899

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 2532

DAKAR FOR LABOR ATTACHE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO, SL

SUBJECT: US POSITION ON THE ILO

REF: STATE 169505

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER HARRY WILLIAMS CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE NOON AUGUST 11 TO EXPRESS GOSL AND, IN PARTICULAR, PRESIDENT STEVENS' CONCERN UNITED STATES WILL DECIDE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, WILLIAMS SAID STEVENS FEARED US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO NOT ONLY WOULD WRECK ILO, BUT WOULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE ENTIRE UN STRUCTURE. WILLIAMS SAID STEVENS CONSIDERED ILO TO BE ONE OF MAIN PILLARS OF SUPPORT UPON WHICH UN FOUNDATION RESTED AND ITS DESTRUCTION EVENTUALLY WOULD LEAD TO COLLAPSE OF UN SYSTEM. WILLIAMS ASKED USG TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY IMPLICATIONS OF US WITHDRAWAL BOTH ON ILO AND ON UN.

2. I ASSURED WILLIAMS PRESIDENT STEVENS' CONCERNS WOULD BE REPORTED PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON. I NOTED USG WAS COGNIZANT THAT SIERRA LEONE LABOR REPRESENTATIVE TO ILO HAD VOTED TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 FREETO 02532 121344Z

SUPPORT USG POSITION, BUT EXPRESSED REGRET THAT GOSL REPRESENTATIVE AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE WERE ABSENT AT VOTING EXPECIALLY SINCE FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR GOBIO LAMIN HAD ASSURED AMBASSADOR HOROWITZ OF GOSL SUPPORT.

3. DRAWING FROM REFTTEL, I TOLD WILLIAMS SOME COUNTRIES APPARENTLY HAD ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION USG HAD ESTABLISHED INFLEXIBLE POSITION

AT JUNE 1977 CONFERENCE. I EXPLAINED PURPOSE OF LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW AND SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS BY USG REPRESENTATIVES WAS TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON FACT USG BELIEVED ILO HAD STRAYED FAR FROM ITS MAIN PURPOSES AND THAT USG WAS NOT INTERESTED IN ONE-TIME VICTORY BUT IN RETURNING ILO TO ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES. I TOLD WILLIAMS CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE WAS MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO PRESIDENT CARTER. I NOTED RECENT PRESS STATEMENT THAT, WHILE AFL/CIO AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAD RECOMMENDED US WITHDRAWAL, UAW HAD RECOMMENDED US STAY. I REITERATED THAT FINAL DECISION WHETHER USG WOULD WITHDRAW WAS UP TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

4. WILLIAMS SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING PRESIDENT STEVENS SAME AFTERNOON AND WOULD RELATE TO HIM MY ASSURANCE THAT GOSL'S VIEWS WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON AND THAT FINAL DECISION ON WITHDRAWAL RESTED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.
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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Subject: US POSITION ON THE ILO
TAGS: ELAB, SL, US, ILO
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